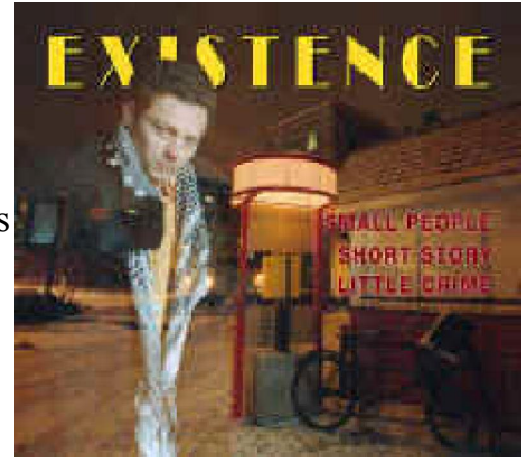


***EXISTENCE 'SMALL PEOPLE, SHORT STORY, LITTLE CRIME' (BLACK PEARL PRODUCTIONS)***

This is the second CD of Canadian outfit EXISTENCE. This band is quite unique in rock history as they seem to do something that I have never heard before. Musically they play some sort of rock that is impossible to categorise, yeah sure there are influences of 70s Progressive Rock (PAVLOVS DOG/STYX), but in general this band has created an own style. The first track "Beauty teen" is a nice semi progressive melodic rocker and is one of the few songs that can be categorised. What follows are many instrumental songs with a lot of dark pianoplay, violins and guitars to rock up the sound.



One other thing I haven't mentioned is the CD booklet that comes as a magazine typed book that features a lot of stories around the band. The vocalist Alan Charles has a very good melodic voice, but unfortunately not many songs feature vocals. Besides the already mentioned "Beauty teen", other interesting vocal songs are the melodic semi ballad "Darkness" (with violin solo), the slow melodic rocker "Farewell from the lone poet" and "Flowers won't do" (the only typical rocker, this is a good 70s typed melodic rocker with a groove a la MOXY, APRIL WINE).

The fact that the band has a violin player is not a problem, it's more that the songs are quite complex. Sometimes it's just a bit too much out of the ordinary, then you're longing for a little more melodic rock. Nevertheless, this band needs to be checked if you're into experimental progressive music that has a sound of it's own and includes many instrumental and spoken passages. More info at: <http://www.blackpearl.qc.ca> and e-mail at: [pearl@mtl.net](mailto:pearl@mtl.net)

**Rating: 6,5/10**